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Date of Signature

and Deposit:

Attorney of Record

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants:

Michel G. Bergeron, et al.

Serial No.:

09/989,643

Filed:

November 20, 2001

For:

SPECIES-SPECIFIC, GENUS-SPECIFIC AND UNIVERSAL

DNA PROBES AND AMPLIFICATION PRIMERS TO

RAPIDLY DETECT AND IDENTIFY COMMON BACTERIAL AND FUNGAL PATHOGENS AND

ASSOCIATED ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE GENES FROM

CLINICAL SPECIMENS FOR DIAGNOSIS IN

MICROBIOLOGY LABORATORIES

Group Art Unit:

Examiner:

1634 F. Lu

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Dear Sir:

Applicants respond to the July 8, 2003 Restriction Requirement by filing a continuation application on date even herewith and enclose a five month extension of time so that this continuation will be filed during the pendency of the above-identified application.

Applicants intend to quickly file a Preliminary Amendment to modify the claims of the new continuation application and believe that the above-identified restriction requirement will no longer be applicable.

A Petition and Fee for Five Months Extension of Time is enclosed. No other fees are believed necessary to enter this response. However, if any other fees are necessary, please charge Deposit Account 17-0055.

Respectfully submitted,

Michel G. Bergeron, et al.

January 7, 2004

Ву:

Jean C. Baker

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